



## September 2013



**PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER** 

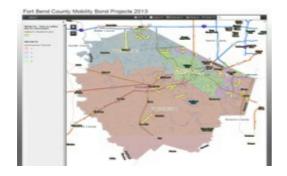
# "Commissioner's Corner" (September Edition)



Click the link to watch the September edition of Commissioner's Corner: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdLwy-wxNZU



#### Fort Bend County Seeks Voter Approval On The 2013 Mobility Bond



With an annual average population increase exceeding 22,000 each year since 2000, Fort Bend County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. Excellent schools, affordable living and quality of life encourage this growth to continue at impressive rates. This rapid growth demands continuous review of mobility needs throughout the county to provide adequate capacity to allow traffic to flow smoothly and minimize the risk of future 'gridlock' on county roadways.

Members of the Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court addressed this concern at their meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> by unanimously voting to call a \$184.9 million bond referendum on **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** If passed, the authorization will provide funding for a total of 59 mobility projects throughout the County.

### Fifth Street Area Residents Work Together On Future Development



Stafford City Council Member Felecia Evans-Smith speaking during one of the sessions.

Community leaders, elected officials, and community residents attended the Fifth Street Area Design Workshop & Community Meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Fifth Street Community Center, located at 3110 Fifth Street, Stafford, Texas. The workshop was a culmination of nearly a year of stakeholder meetings, neighbors talking with neighbors, and a community survey/needs assessment.

The workshop gave community members an opportunity to design the Fifth Street Area of the future through interactive dialogue.

Attendees of this workshop were able to pinpoint exactly where they believe badly needed amenities should be located. The \$184.9 million in county funds will be leveraged with funds from state, local and private partners to provide a total project funding of \$384.3 million.

The last bond election in the county took place in 2007 for 150 million, as of today only 35 million remains. This coupled with the rapid growth in the county further prompted members of Commissioner's Court to call for another Bond Election in November 2013.

In May of this year County Judge Robert Hebert asked the Commissioners to compile a list of potential road projects in their respective precincts. The initial combined list of all four Commissioners' precincts totaled \$925 million in projects. The Commissioners then narrowed down and prioritized the combined project list for a total of 59 projects at a cost of \$185 million, which is the lowest amount the County could ask for without raising property taxes.

The projects by precincts are:

- Precinct 1: 15 Projects = \$53.4 million
- Precinct 2: 16 Projects = \$47.5 million
- Precinct 3: 20 Projects= \$58 million
- Precinct 4: 14 Projects= \$26 million

For detailed information on the mobility projects, please visit the <u>Proposed</u> <u>Mobility Projects</u> page.



Community residents working together to pinpoint where they would like to see certain amenities on Fifth Street.

Those selections will be part of the final neighborhood plan used to market the community to prospective developers and charitable foundations. State Representative Ron Reynolds, Stafford City Council Member Felecia Evans-Smith, Fort Bend County Democratic Chairman Stephen Brown, and representatives from Commissioner Prestage's Office provided valuable insight on the goals and progress of the Fifth Street Area Project and pledged their continued support in seeing this come to fruition.

Led by Fort Bend County Commissioner, Grady Prestage, in partnership with the University of Texas' Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), the goal of the Fifth Street Area Project is to attract development, improve the environment, and build upon the community's unique character and heritage. Fort Bend County Community Development with a block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds this initiative.

For more information on the next steps and how to get involved, contact:

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